



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 19 December 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports a freight train derailment early Thursday, just outside Washington, D.C., will disrupt rail service for thousands of commuters and travelers along Amtrak's eastern corridor through Friday. (See item [6](#))
- The National Journal's Technology Daily reports President Bush has signed landmark directives establishing new policies on assessing the vulnerability of critical infrastructure and the nation's preparedness to respond to a terrorist attack. (See item [19](#))
- ComputerWorld reports that according to a statement from Zone-H, thirteen NASA Websites were defaced Wednesday by a Brazilian crew dubbed drwxr. (See item [21](#))

DHS/IAIP Update Fast Jump

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *December 18, Dow Jones Business News* — Rising gas prices make LNG more attractive according to Abraham. U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said Thursday, December 18, that rising natural gas prices have made liquified natural gas (LNG) more price competitive. Speaking at an LNG ministerial summit, Abraham said historically low natural gas prices in the U.S., combined with the relatively high cost of LNG, have kept LNG market share at just about 1% or 2% of the U.S. market. "That price environment has changed,"

he said. "Rising prices for natural gas in the U.S. have made LNG price competitive." The U.S. currently has four LNG import facilities, and **Abraham estimated that the U.S. needs as many as 13 large LNG facilities in North America to reach the import volume of 15 billion cubic feet a day needed to meet growing U.S. energy demands.** "The challenges encompass the realignment of the entire gas supply chain," he said. The secretary said the U.S. investment must attract more than \$100 billion to facilitate wider LNG use in the U.S.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/djus/031218/0957000820_2.html

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

2. *December 17, Reuters* — **Atlas 3 rocket launches U.S. Navy satellite.** A U.S. Navy communications satellite was headed for a stationary orbit high above Earth on **Wednesday, December 17, following its successful launch aboard a Corp Atlas 3B rocket.** Lift off was at 9:30 p.m. EST from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. Thirty-three minutes later the Navy's Ultra High Frequency (UHF) Follow-On F11 communications satellite had separated from the rocket's upper stage. **The UHF F11 is the final satellite in a constellation providing tactical mobile communications to the U.S. Armed Forces and their national security clients,** the Navy said. Ground controllers reported they had made contact with the satellite and its systems were working as expected.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=570&ncid=753&e=2&u=/nm/20031218/sc_nm/space_atlas_dc

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Banking and Finance Sector

3. *December 18, ZDNet Australia* — **Scammers bid to nail Westpac customers.** An e-mail purporting to be an advisory from Westpac bank in Australia to its customers about the dangers of online fraud is itself fraudulent, a bank spokesperson confirmed on Thursday, December 18. The e-mail, headlined "Online Banking: Protect Yourself from Internet Fraud," purports to come from the address validate@westpac.com.au and includes a link to a Website below the message "As part of our ongoing commitment to provide the 'Best Possible' service to all our Members, we are now requiring each member to validate their accounts once per month." The e-mail contains two examples of Internet frauds, but the clues that it's a fraud are the bad grammar, font variations and the link to a Website requiring a customer to input their account details, including passwords. However, a Westpac spokesperson stressed that the e-mail did not come from the bank and reiterated a warning that the only way to visit Westpac Internet banking was by typing www.westpac.com.au into a browser. The spokesperson said criminals involved in such scams were becoming more and more

sophisticated.

Source: <http://www.zdnet.com.au/newstech/security/story/0,2000048600,20282056,00.htm>

4. *December 18, Government Computer News* — **FinCEN data sharing yields leads on financial crimes. An information-sharing program that the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) administers has provided many leads, some of which have led to indictments, for terrorist financing and money laundering, the Department of Treasury said Thursday, December 18.** Through Treasury's FinCEN, federal law enforcement agencies can reach more than 29,000 financial institutions to locate accounts and transactions of persons or groups that may be involved in terrorist financing or money laundering. **The information-sharing system provided data for federal law enforcement for 64 terrorism and terrorist financing cases and 124 money laundering cases from February through November.** The leads resulted in three indictments, 21 subpoenas, 11 search warrants and 407 grand jury subpoenas. Financial institutions file information regarding suspicious activity required under the Bank Secrecy Act over a secure Internet system FinCEN developed called the Patriot Act Communication System (PACS). PACS lets financial institutions send secure messages to FinCEN and receive responses.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/24474-1.html

5. *December 17, MSNBC* — **Online job scammers steal millions. Job seekers are the latest victims in a scam that's raging on the Internet, dubbed "postal forwarding," or "reshipping fraud" by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.** According to authorities, thousands of job seekers have been caught up in the con when replying to online job announcements. Put simply, the newly hired employees are used to move merchandise or money out of the United States. But behind the scenes, the organized crime ring is using a variety of confusing tactics. **One flavor of the scheme is designed to circumvent fraud protections at mail order companies and Websites while stealing popular items such as handheld computers. To avoid raising suspicion, the con artists make sure the shipping address — the address of the "recruit" — is in the same state as the billing address on a stolen credit card.** To do so, the con artists have a wide variety of employees and stolen credit cards from which to choose. They have also managed to change billing addresses on stolen credit cards so they match the recruit's locale. At best guess, the con artists have already made off with between \$5 million and \$10 million, said Barry Mew, spokesperson for the Postal Inspection Service.

Source: <http://msnbc.msn.com/Default.aspx?id=3730401&p1=0>

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Transportation Sector

6. *December 18, Associated Press* — **Train derailment cancels Amtrak service south of Washington, DC.** A freight train derailed early Thursday just outside Washington, D.C., disrupting rail service for thousands of commuters and travelers along Amtrak's eastern corridor. **About 13 cars on a CSX freight train from Richmond to Philadelphia came off the tracks just before 6 a.m. in Alexandria, about 10 miles south of Washington, DC.** CSX officials said the derailed cars blocked three tracks. Amtrak and the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) commuter lines use CSX rail lines and were forced to suspend service through

the area. VRE later planned to run one southbound evening train on each of its two lines, starting from points south of the accident scene. "There were two trains on the line when the derailment occurred and both of those trains headed back to the yard, dropping the people off back at their stations," said Dale Zehner, VRE's acting chief operating officer. No trains made it to Washington's Union Station. Amtrak canceled several regional trains Thursday and bused some passengers around the derailment. **The 96-car freight train included six empty cars used to transport hazardous materials, CSX spokesman Adam Hollingsworth said. A hazardous-materials crew determined the derailment posed no environmental threat, fire officials said.**

Source: <http://www.fredericksburg.com/News/apmethods/apstory?urlfeed=D7VGVQI00.xml>

7. *December 18, Department of Transportation* — **FAA creates Center of Excellence for Advanced Materials.** The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has created a new Air Transportation Center of Excellence for Advanced Materials. **The center, awarded jointly to the University of Washington and Wichita State University, will conduct research, engineering and prototype development toward the safe and reliable use of advanced materials and composites in large commercial aircraft.** Specific projects will include evaluating data from past applications, performing basic and applied research and deriving standard engineering practices. "As a world-class partnership of academia, industry and government, the center will support the FAA in developing policies, standards and training for advanced materials," said FAA Administrator Marion C. Blakey. "The center also will play an important role in technology transfer and continued training and education in advanced materials for the aviation industry and other government agencies."

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot14103.htm>

8. *December 18, Scripps Howard News Service* — **Research on road safety of trucks is funded.** The University of Alabama at Birmingham has received a grant of \$275,000 to study ways to prevent commercial trucking crashes and the serious, if not fatal, injuries they cause. **"This is something that impacts the lives of every American in every type of vehicle on the road," said Jennifer Park, a spokesperson for the university.** The study, funded by a federal Department of Transportation grant, will involve several departments at the university, she said. **In 2001, more than 5,000 people died and 131,000 were injured in crashes involving large commercial trucks, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.** The collisions cost the U.S. economy about \$20 billion each year and account for eight percent of all fatal crashes in the country, according to the same agency.

Source: <http://www.knoxstudio.com/shns/story.cfm?pk=TRUCKCRASHES-12-19-03&cat=AN>

9. *December 18, Associated Press* — **Winds may have contributed to plane crashes.** Gusty winds may have contributed to two single-engine plane crashes in southeast Texas that killed three people this month, according to preliminary reports from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). Both accidents remain under investigation, and neither report released Wednesday identified causes of the crashes. **On December 9, two men were killed when their rented Piper-28 crashed after hitting power lines on approach to the single concrete runway at Sugar Land Regional Airport. The NTSB report said the surface observing station at the airport reported clear skies with 18-mph winds, gusting to 29 mph. The tower controller saw a "flash similar to the explosion of a transformer" when the Piper hit**

power lines and cut power to runway lights before it crashed, the report said. Killed were the pilot, Ben Huu Nguyen, 47, and passenger Fariddier Vega, 24. **That same day, another Piper-28 crashed amid 42-mph winds gusting to up to 52 mph as it approached Livingston Municipal Airport.** The pilot and owner of the plane, 54-year-old James Lowe, survived and remains hospitalized. His son, student pilot Jason Lowe, 23, died. The NTSB report said witnesses saw the plane flying low before it hit a tree and crashed in a back yard 2,600 feet from the runway. The aircraft also struck power lines, cutting power to several residences.

Source: <http://www.wfaa.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D7VGU56O 0.html>

10. *December 16, Government Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-325T: Preliminary Observations on Efforts to Target Security Inspections of Cargo Containers (Testimony).** This Testimony was given before the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. One possible method for terrorists to smuggle such a weapon is to use one of the seven million cargo containers that arrive at our nation's seaports each year. The Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is responsible for addressing the potential threat posed by the movement of oceangoing cargo containers. Since CBP cannot inspect all arriving cargo containers, it uses a targeting strategy, which includes an automated targeting system. **This system targets some containers for inspection based on a perceived level of risk. In this testimony, GAO provides preliminary findings on its assessment of (1) whether CBP's development of its targeting strategy is consistent with recognized key risk management and computer modeling practices and (2) how well the targeting strategy has been implemented at selected seaports around the country.** GAO is completing its assessment and developing recommendations to address strategy development and implementation challenges. Highlights – <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04325thigh.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-325T>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

11. *December 18, Associated Press* — **Plant disease stymied. A multimillion-dollar problem for the nursery industry could be significantly reduced with genetically engineered plants that can resist crown gall disease, officials say.** The bacterial disease can cause tumors on plants, usually on their roots, diminish yield, affect the structural integrity of the plant, and force growers to replace the crop. **Field tests by Oregon State University (OSU) researchers with tobacco plants and apple trees indicate that the genetic engineering technology appears to provide nearly complete protection from the disease.** The OSU researchers developed a gene silencing technique that tricks plants into alerting their natural immune systems to destroy the bacteria before it causes production of too much growth hormone.

Scientists hope that the technology can be applied to a wide variety of other fruit, nut, and ornamental trees and plants. In Oregon and Washington, crown gall disease causes at least \$400,000 in damage to nursery stock annually, but the losses might be far higher because the best figures available do not include losses in established orchards and vineyards.

Source: <http://news.statesmanjournal.com/article.cfm?i=72464>

12. *December 18, Illinois Ag Connection* — **Antibiotic use on swine farms increases efficiency, profits.** Antibiotics used on swine farms means significant production efficiency and a nine percent boost in pork producer profits a new study finds. The study provides an economically detailed look at the use of antibiotics for growth promotion following dramatic changes that have altered the face of the U.S. swine industry in the last three decades. It is based on industry statistics compiled in the 1990s. **Researchers at the University of Illinois found that for average swine facilities antibiotics boost daily growth and reduce swine death rates during the growth–finisher stage of production.** Swine farmers operating a 1,020–head finishing barn, researchers found, realize a profit of 59 cents per pig in annual returns. Antibiotics have been used widely at subtherapeutic levels for livestock production since the 1950s, but such use has been questioned in recent years because of the rise of antibiotic resistance in human and veterinary medicine. **The study suggests that a ban on antibiotic use, as has occurred in Denmark, would result in sharp increases in production costs at U.S. facilities,** said co–author Paul E. McNamara, a professor of agricultural and consumer economics at Illinois. Source: <http://www.illinoisagconnection.com/story–state.cfm?Id=978&y r=2003>

13. *December 18, Korea Herald* — **Seoul mobilizing military to contain bird flu.** South Korea will deploy additional Army troops to the areas affected by a deadly avian influenza in an effort to prevent the virulent disease from spreading any further. At a meeting presided over by Prime Minister Goh Kun Wednesday, the government unveiled a set of measures aimed at containing the possible spread or inflow of infectious diseases, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, the bird flu also known as the H5N1 virus, and a Fujian–like A–type influenza. **Regarding the rapidly spreading bird flu, more soldiers will be sent to chicken and duck farms in North Chungcheong Province, where thousands of chickens and ducks have been infected with the fatal disease.** They are planning to slaughter and bury chickens and ducks within a three kilometer radius of the affected farms. More than 35,000 chickens and 15,000 ducks have so far been killed. Source: http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/SITE/data/html_dir/2003/12/19/2_00312190068.asp

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Food Sector

14. *December 18, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory* — **Researchers study plasma sterilization.** Hundreds of billions of plastic food and beverage containers are manufactured each year in the U.S. All of these packages must undergo sterilization, which at present is done using high temperatures or chemicals. Chemicals often leave a residue that can affect the safety and taste of the product. Heat is effective and sufficiently rapid, but necessitates the use of costly heat–resistant plastics that can withstand sterilization temperatures. At the U.S. Department of Energy's Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL), a team is conducting a small–scale research project studying plasma sterilization. **This method, if successful, could**

be used to sterilize food and beverage containers, leading to an enormous savings, potentially hundreds of millions of dollars annually for a large soft drink manufacturer. "We have experiments indicating it is possible to kill microbes using a new plasma approach," noted John Schmidt, lead scientist of PPPL's Plasma Sterilization project. Schmidt cautioned, however, that the research is preliminary. "Physics research will be followed by considerable development work to arrive at a practical system for assembly line use," said Schmidt. Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2003-12/dl-prs121803.php

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Water Sector

15. *December 17, Associated Press* — **Water debt looms.** Fall rains put Mexico almost a third of the way toward meeting its annual water obligation to the United States. **But even with its Rio Grande basin reservoirs filled to the brim, there's no indication Mexico plans to dip into the stores to pay its years-old water debt, representatives of the International Boundary and Water Commission told Rio Grande Valley irrigators.** Negotiations on the water debt are ongoing in Washington, D.C. Under a 1944 treaty, Mexico is required to send the U.S. a third of the water that flows from its Rio Grande tributaries, for an average of 350,000 acre feet a year over five years. The U.S., in turn, releases an average of 1.5 million acre feet of Colorado River water to Mexico. **Claiming drought, Mexico in 1992 began falling behind on its payments and by the September 30, 2002, end of the last five-year cycle, the Rio Grande debt had grown to 1.5 million acre feet.** Rio Grande Valley farmers have questioned this, when satellite data showed once desert-like areas of the state of Chihuahua were lush and green. Many Valley farmers went under as a decade of drought climaxed in 2001 and 2002. There has been progress in bringing down the debt, which now stands at 1.3 million acre feet. Source: <http://www.dfw.com/mld/startelegram/news/state/7516136.htm>

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Public Health Sector

16. *December 18, Associated Press* — **China researchers to turn in SARS samples.** China ordered researchers on Thursday to turn in samples of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus for storage following Taiwan's announcement that a scientist had contracted the disease. **China Central Television (CCTV) reported that Beijing airport has begun disinfecting flights from Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore and has set up a special passageway to health check for travelers from those countries.** According to the official Xinhua News Agency, the Health Ministry "demanded that all regions strengthen management of the SARS virus ... and guarantee the safety of laboratories." **Mainland authorities have picked three facilities to store virus samples and four for materials from patients, said a Health Ministry spokesperson.** She said she didn't know how many laboratories would be affected. But she said "many organizations" in China were taking part in international efforts to develop a vaccine and probably have virus samples. In Beijing, officials have ordered airplanes from Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore to be disinfected, CCTV said. Source: <http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=541&ncid=751>

17. *December 18, USA Today* — **Too soon to measure severity of flu season, CDC says.** Federal health officials say it's too early to tell if the season will be worse than usual. "Flu seasons are always notoriously difficult to predict," says epidemiologist Stephen Ostroff of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). **"We got off to an early start and in comparison to most flu years, the number of states reporting widespread flu activity is considerably higher than we've seen in other years, but whether we're seeing an early season that will end early we can't say."** Every year, flu claims 36,000 lives in the USA and requires hospitalization for another 114,000. The CDC tracks flu in four ways. The agency monitors testing in 120 labs around the world to make sure that new viruses or changes in circulating viruses are detected quickly. The CDC does surveillance through a network of sentinel clinics for influenza-like illness. It tracks the percentages of deaths from pneumonia and flu-like illness in 122 cities. The agency also estimates levels of flu activity reported by state epidemiologists. **Neither the CDC nor most state health departments take an actual head count of flu cases. Diseases that look like flu can be caused by all sorts of viruses and bacteria, and hospitals don't always test every patient to find out what's causing the illness.**

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2003-12-17-flu-season_x.htm

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Government Sector

18. *December 18, U.S. Newswire* — **Visa tracking deadlines.** A majority of the deadlines set by Congress in the 2002 visa-tracking law have been missed, according to a new report published jointly by the Center for Immigration Studies and Numbers, USA Education and Research Foundation. **The report is the first to systematically examine the implementation of the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002.** Signed into law in May 2002, the visa tracking law, as it is often called, and the USA Patriot Act were the primary legislative responses to the 9/11 attacks. While the Patriot Act has been the subject of extensive debate, the visa tracking law has received relatively little attention. The full report, "Falling Behind on Security: Implementation of the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002," by Rosemary Jenks and Steven Camarota, is available at <http://www.cis.org/articles/2003/back1903.html>. The report notes that there is probably no more important tool for preventing future attacks on American soil than the nation's immigration system. **Because the current terrorist threat comes primarily from individuals who arrive from abroad, our system for admitting immigrants and temporary visitors, as well as controlling our borders, is vital to reducing chances of another attack. If fully implemented, the visa tracking law could significantly enhance national security.**

Source: <http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=118-12182003>

19. *December 17, National Journal* — **Bush signs new homeland security directives.** President Bush on Wednesday signed landmark directives establishing new policies on assessing the vulnerability of critical infrastructure and the nation's preparedness to respond to a terrorist attack. "These are foundational documents for our homeland security strategy," said a senior administration official during a conference call. **The first directive requires federal**

agencies to coordinate with state and local officials as well as the private sector to identify critical infrastructure vulnerabilities across all sectors, including information technology, telecommunications, chemical and transportation systems. "We understand full well that the preponderance of these key infrastructures are owned by the private sector," said the official. "That philosophy permeates the document." The official said after federal agencies make an inventory of the key infrastructures, the departments would work with the private sector as well as state and local governments to protect those assets. He called a national policy on critical infrastructure the cornerstone of the country's homeland security strategy. The directive supersedes previous policies, including former President Clinton's directive known as PDD 63, which focused primarily on the economic fallout of a terrorist attack on critical infrastructures. Wednesday's directive goes further to include catastrophic loss of life. To read the White House document: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/12/20031217-5.html>
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1203/121703tdpm1.htm>

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Emergency Services Sector

20. *December 18, Government Computer News* — **FEMA says power line broadband threatens its radio system. Responding to a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) inquiry, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has warned that sending data through power lines could disrupt FEMA's National Radio System.** The Homeland Security Department is responding to a notice of inquiry issued last May by the FCC on whether, or how, the agency should regulate an emerging technology called broadband over power line, or BPL. BPL systems use live utility company power lines as a conduit for data transmission by modulating radio frequency signals that are coupled with electricity transmissions. FEMA responded earlier this month to the inquiry, stating that it had "grave concerns" about how the technology would affect its National Radio System **The radio system, which works with shortwave radios, is FEMA's backup command and control communications media, and was designed to interface with the radio systems of other agencies during times of disaster.**

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol11_no1/homeland-security/24470-1.html

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Information and Telecommunications Sector



21. *December 18, ComputerWorld* — **NASA sites hacked. Thirteen NASA Websites were defaced Wednesday by a Brazilian crew dubbed drwxr, according to a statement from Zone-H, an organization that monitors hacking.** Zone-H said the defacer apparently modified the index pages on the sites to express his opinion about the Iraq war. The main NASA Web site did not appear to be among those hit by the attack. Zone-H, citing Netcraft Ltd., a British Internet consultancy, said the sites were running the Apache 1.3.27 Web server with PHP (an open-source scripting language often used to create dynamic Web pages) and several Apache modules on a Linux system. "We can suppose that the server was remotely compromised using a vulnerability in a PHP script, then the defacer probably gained root

privileges using the local root exploit for the Linux kernel 2.4.22 published by iSEC Security Research last week." **NASA spokesman Brian Dunbar confirmed that the sites had been hacked and defaced and said the agency had taken them offline.** The hacked NASA Web sites include its Computing, Information and Communications Technology Program site; the NASA Advanced Supercomputing Division; the NASA Information Power Grid; and the NASA Research & Education Network.

Source: <http://computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/cybercrime/story/0.10801.88348.00.html?SKC=security-88348>

22. *December 17, Rutgers University* — **Rutgers area to become test track for wireless Internet.** The Wireless Information Network Laboratory (WINLAB) at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, has won a \$5.45 million, four-year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to construct and operate a facility for researchers around the nation to test the next generation of wireless and mobile networks. This wireless networking test bed will include both a large-scale "radio grid emulator" laboratory and a "field trial" system in and around the Rutgers campus and nearby Central New Jersey communities. The project is called the Open Access Research Testbed for Next-Generation Wireless Networks. Rutgers is managing the project in collaboration with Columbia University, Princeton University, Lucent Bell Labs, IBM Research, and Thomson Inc. The two-tiered project will include a new wireless system emulation laboratory to be headquartered at the Technology Centre of New Jersey. **An indoor radio grid of about 625 stationary and mobile nodes will give researchers throughout the country remote access for testing of future network concepts under a variety of computer-generated topologies and radio conditions.** The field test network will include about 50 nodes running a configurable mix of third generation high-speed cellular, along with wi-fi wireless access.
- Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2003-12/rtsu-rat12170_3.php

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: WORM_LOVGATE.G Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	135 (epmap), 80 (www), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 137 (netbios-ns), 17300 (Kuang2TheVirus), 21 (ftp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 53 (domain), 139 (netbios-ssn)

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General Sector

23. *December 18, Associated Press* — Iran signs deal to open nuclear complexes. Iran signed a key accord Thursday opening its nuclear facilities to inspections, a Western demand amid lingering suspicions that Tehran might be concealing an atomic weapons program. Iranian representative Ali Akbar Salehi and Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), signed the agreement at the IAEA's headquarters. **The agreement, tacked on to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, requires Iran to submit to intrusive and unannounced UN inspections of its nuclear complexes and research facilities.** Iran insists its nuclear program is peaceful and geared only toward producing electricity. The United States has accused Iran of secretly trying to develop nuclear weapons. Iran agreed last month to open suspect sites that up to now have been off-limits, and to let IAEA inspectors conduct surprise checks to ensure the country is not trying to develop atomic weaponry as the United States alleges. Although Iran repeatedly had said it would sign the accord, its failure for weeks to follow through had led to speculation that it might be stalling.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/World/ap20031218_833.html

24. *December 17, MSNBC* — U.S.: Credible threat of major attack in Italy. Italian authorities have clamped unprecedented security coverage over the Vatican and other Christian landmarks after receiving a "credible threat" of a Christmastime terrorist attack, senior U.S. officials said Wednesday. Over the past two days, officials within the Vatican and elsewhere in Italy have increased security near major Christian symbols, including St. Peter's Square. **Italy has increased security around 8,000 or so sites, which are guarded by a 12,000-member security force, Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu told Agence France-Presse.** An Italian police official described the threat as more credible than specific, meaning there was more information on the type of attack than on the specifics of where or when it would occur. Officials in the northern Italian city of Pisa tightened security around its famous Leaning Tower, where a restricted zone is usually flouted by private vehicles, a spokesman for the city police said Wednesday. Special attention focuses on the Vatican. The Via della Conciliazione, the main road leading to St. Peter's Basilica, will be closed every night until December 25, a precaution that officials said was unprecedented.

Source: <http://msnbc.msn.com/Default.aspx?id=3741206&p1=0>

25. *December 17, Financial Times* — U.S. drafts UN move to reduce flow of weapons. The U.S. has circulated a draft Security Council resolution that would oblige states to clamp down on the flow of weapons to terrorists and other "non-state actors." The text follows lengthy inter-agency discussions in Washington, and also builds on similar calls by Russia's President Vladimir Putin. But it stops short of earlier British proposals for a UN counter-proliferation committee, or French calls for a permanent corps of UN weapons inspectors. President Bush told the UN General Assembly in September that a new resolution, "should call on all members of the UN to criminalise the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to enact strict export controls consistent with international standards, and to secure any and all sensitive materials within their own borders." UN diplomats said discussions had stalled as Washington debated

how to follow up the President's proposal. Experts say they first have to sort out basic definitions of what constitutes weapons-related material. **A U.S. official said the draft's "key element" was "to make states adopt and enforce appropriate and effective laws to prohibit non-state actors from acquiring, manufacturing, possessing and transporting these weapons."**

Source: <http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory&c=StoryFT&cid=1071251621997&p=1012571727162>

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

DHS/IAIP Warnings – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

DHS/IAIP Publications – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions: nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at 703-883-6631

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